(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of the curators of world museums to Indian museums

*237. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior curators of some of the well known museums of the world visited Indian museums recently;

(b) if so, what is their impression on conditions of Indian museums, method of their upkeep, manner of display of art objects etc; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government on their observations?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The impression as reported appears to indicate that the conditions are pitiable, museums are in shambles, lack air-conditioning and display is unsatisfactory.

(c) The observations expressed about museums in India are highly exaggerated.

India's initiative for long term settlement of Afghanistan problem

*238. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any initiative with other countries for a long term settlement of the Afghanistan problem; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Government have been in touch with all concerned including all sections of Afghan opinion. Government have consistently called for strict implementation of the Geneva accords by all signatories as an essential step in seeking a political solution based on existing realities and ensuring the sovereignty, integrity, non-aligned status and independence of Afghanistan.

Common core for development of a National curricular framework for school stage

*239. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 234 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training had developed a National Curricular Framework for School stage which contains a common core having the content essential to nurture national identity;

(b) if so, what are these components of the common core and also the curriculum guidelines; and

(c) whether the States have been urged to use NCERT's curriculum guidelines, syllabi and text-books for different stages of school education; if so, what has been the response till date thereto state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Common core for development of a National curricular framework for school stage

The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 envisages a National system of education based on a national curricular framework which contains a common core alongwith other components that are flexible.